GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2796
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
POLICY ON RAIN HARVESTING
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since formulated a comprehensive policy on rain harvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which such a policy is likely to be formulated; and

(d) the financial assistance being given to States which have already taken a lead in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Agriculture announced the National Agriculture Policy in 2000, which accords high priority to the rational utilisation and conservation of the country`s abundant water resources and conjunctive use of surface and ground water. It also lays emphasis on the integrated and holistic development of rainfed areas through conservation of rainwater.

(d): Government of India is promoting rainwater harvesting through watershed management programmes, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rainwater harvesting under various schemes.

Rainwater conservation and harvesting is an integral component of watershed development programmes, which are being implemented all over the country. The total financial assistance provided to the States and Union Territories under major watershed development programme in first four years of IX Plan is annexed.

Annexure

Details of funds provided during first four years of IX Plan (1997-98 to 2000-2001) to various Watershed Development Programmes

S.No. Ministry/Scheme Funds provided during first four years of IX Plan (Rs. in crores)

I DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION

1 NWDPRA 792.15
2 RVP & FPR 470.14
3 WDPSCA 63.40
Sub Total 1325.69

II DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

1 DPAP 448.29
2 DDP 369.79
3 IWDP 326.80
Sub Total 1144.88
III MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

1 IAEPS 141.54
GRAND TOTAL 2612.11

NWDPRA = National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
RVP & FPR = Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers
WDPSCA = Watershed Development Project in Shifting cultivation Area
DPAP = Drought Prone Areas Programme

DDP = Desert Development Programme
IWDP = Integrated Wasteland Development Project
IAEPS = Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Projects Scheme